ROBERT KIRKMAN CHARLIE ADLARD DAVE McCAIG

THE WALKING DEAD

DELUXE

image

55 JAN.

FINCH

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CREADOR DE THE WALKING DEAD
ROBERT KIRKMAN

ANTERIORMENTE:

Eugene, uno de los recién llegados, contó al grupo que sabía qué había causado el apocalipsis zombi y que se dirigía a Washington D.C. para ayudar a encontrar una forma de ponerle fin. El grupo decidió que estaba listo para dejar atrás el pasado, y se unieron a Eugene, Abraham y Rosita en una nueva misión hacia la ciudad.

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CARL--
¡PARA!

¡CARL!

NO TE PREOCUPES, PAPÁ--¡VOY CON CUIDADO!

¡ESTOY BIEN!

MALDITA SEA. ¡CARL!

¡¿QUÉ--?!

VROOM!!

LO SIENTO.

NO PASA NADA--

--PERO TEN CUIDADO.

VENGA.

TÚ-- VETE A TU CUARTO.

RICK, CARIÑO-- ¿QUÉ PASA?

CASI LE ATROPELLAN. CASI--CASI LO PERDEMOS.

CARL CASI *MUERE*, LORI.

ÉL ESTÁ BIEN, RICK. ESTÁ BIEN.

NO HE PODIDO PROTEGERLE, NO HE--

VEN AQUÍ.

POR SUPUESTO QUE NO HAS PODIDO PROTEGER A CARL. NO PUEDES PROTEGER A NADIE.

MÍRAME A MÍ...

¡HNGGH!

NO PASA NADA...

ME MEREZCO ESTO.

ESTO ES LO QUE ME MEREZCO.

ES LO CORRECTO.

ME MEREZCO--

¡GNAAGH!

=HUFF=

=HUFF=

¡¿HN?!

¡ESPE-
RA!

PARA--
¡SOY YO!

DEBES TENER MÁS CUIDADO, HIJO.

CASI ME HACES DESPERTAR A TODO EL MUNDO. HABRÍA SIDO UNA LÁSTIMA.

VENGA, BAJA-- DEJA QUE ME OCUPE DEL RESTO DE TU TURNO.

¿QUÉ? ¿POR QUÉ?

PORQUE NO PUEDO DORMIR. O BIEN ME QUEDO DESPIERTO JUNTO A MI HIJO Y ME ARRIESGO A DESPER-TARLE--O HAGO ALGO DE PROVECHO. ME HE DESVELADO-- PUEDO HACERLO, CRÉEME.

ME HAS CONVEN-CIDO.

¿ESTÁS AHÍ?

POR SUPUESTO QUE SÍ.

HE TENIDO UN SUEÑO.

CUÉNTAMELO.

OCURRÍA EN EL PASADO, CARL Y YO ESTÁBAMOS EN CASA--TÚ ESTABAS ALLÍ.

Y ESTABAS... MUERTA. EMPEZABAS A DEVORARME.

TE SIGUES CULPANDO. TIENES QUE SUPERARLO. ESTÁBAMOS EN PELIGRO, RODEADOS, TRATABAS DE PROTEGERNOS A NOSOTROS.

NO PUDISTE HACER NADA.

NO FUE CULPA TUYA, RICK.

TOMÉ MALAS DECISIONES... NO ESCUCHÉ A LA GENTE CUANDO DEBÍ HACERLO. CREÍ QUE YO TENÍA RAZÓN--NO SABÍA LO EQUIVOCADO QUE ESTABA.

JUDY Y TÚ MORISTEIS POR ESO.

NO TIENES NADA QUE DECIR A ESO, ¿EH?

SUPONGO QUE ME HE CONVENCIDO A MÍ MISMO.

¿DÓNDE ESTÁS EXACTAMENTE? ¿VA TODO BIEN, ESTÁS--EN ALGÚN LUGAR TRANQUILO?

YA SABES LO QUE QUIERO DECIR.

SÍ.

SE ESTÁ BIEN AQUÍ. TODOS A LOS QUE PERDIMOS HAN VENIDO AQUÍ. ESTAMOS TODOS JUNTOS, SOMOS FELICES.

ES PERFECTO, NO HAY PELIGROS. ES TODO LO QUE TE PODRÍAS IMAGINAR Y MÁS.

CREO QUE ESTAMOS MUCHO MEJOR AQUÍ.

...

CLARO QUE SOLO DIGO ESTÁS COSAS PORQUE QUIERES QUE YO TE HAGA SENTIR MEJOR. ¿O ACASO HAS OLVIDADO QUE NO SOY REAL?

ADEMÁS, NUNCA HAS SIDO MUY RELIGIOSO.

LORI, ¿ESTOY LOCO?

SÍ... POR LO MENOS UN POCO.

...

¿LORI?

CREO QUE TENGO QUE DEJAR DE HACER ESTO.

VALE, TÍO... ES...

ESTOY DE GUARDIA. MI TURNO.

O COMO SE DIGA.

¿RICK?

AH...

ESTABA CUBRIENDO A ABRAHAM--NO PODÍA DORMIR.

TAMBIÉN PUEDO HACER TU TURNO. VUELVE A LA CAMA.

VALE, TÍO.

GENIAL.

GRACIAS...

¿QUÉ ESTÁS HACIENDO? ¿QUIÉN ESTÁ DE GUARDIA?

¿EH? RICK, POR LO VISTO.

¿QUÉ HACES DESPIERTA?

PENSÉ QUE SERÍA CAPAZ DE DORMIR MEJOR CUANDO SALIÉRAMOS DE AQUELLA CASA... PERO NO.

LO SIENTO. ¿PUEDO HACER ALGO?

¿QUIERES QUE TE TRAIGA ALGO DEL CAMIÓN?

NO...

...SOLO ABRÁZA-ME.

BUENOS DÍAS, RICK.

BUENOS DÍAS, ¿HAS DORMIDO BIEN, GLENN?

SÍ, GRACIAS A TI. NO ME HABÍA SENTIDO TAN BIEN DESDE QUE DEJAMOS LA GRANJA.

NO ME VAN MUCHO LAS ACAMPADAS.

BUENO, PUEDES QUEDÁRTELAS.

OH, RICK... ESCUCHA.

A MÍ ME GUSTAN.

ANOCHE ESTABA TOTALMENTE IDO-- MEDIO GROGUI--ME ALEGRO MUCHO DE QUE HICIERAS MI TURNO. ESTABA TAN ATONTADO QUE CASI ***JURARÍA*** QUE ESTABAS HABLANDO POR TELÉFONO CUANDO TE VI ANOCHE.

¿A QUE ES EXTRAÑO?

SÍ... ***QUÉ RARO.***

¿QUIERES QUE META ESA TIENDA EN EL CAMIÓN POR TI?

NAH. CREO QUE LA LLEVAREMOS EN NUESTRO COCHE.

NO PLANEAS DEJARNOS TIRADOS, ¿VERDAD? PORQUE UNA COSA ES LARGARSE-- PERO OTRA MUY DIFERENTE ES ROBAR UNA DE NUESTRAS TIENDAS.

VETE A TOMAR POR CULO, ABRAHAM. NO NOS VAMOS A NINGUNA PARTE-- PERO SI ASÍ FUERA, TENEMOS TANTO DERECHO A ESTA TIENDA COMO CUALQUIERA.

VALE, COLEGA. SOLO PARA QUE QUEDE CLARO.

RECOGED TODO. NOS VAMOS EN CINCO MINUTOS.

¿QUÉ?

NO ME CAE BIEN. ES UN TÍO RARO.

BRAKKA! BRAKKA! BRAKKA!

MUY BIEN, GENTE-- ¡TERMINAD YA!

COGED LO QUE PODÁIS Y LARGUÉMONOS DE AQUÍ DE UNA *PUTA* VEZ.

MIERDA-- ¡CAMINANTES! ¡CARL, MÉTETE EN EL COCHE YA!

TODAS LAS HACHAS Y CUCHILLOS DE TODO EL PUÑETERO SITIO HAN DESAPARECIDO. PERO ESTÁ LLENO DE PIEDRAS DE AFILAR.

NADIE PIENSA EN EL FUTURO.

¿QUEDA ALGUIEN DENTRO?

DALE ESTÁ AHÍ CON GLENN Y MAGGIE, PERO CREO QUE YA CASI HAN TERMINADO.

¡SÁCALOS DE AHÍ!

HORA DE IRSE, SEÑORITAS. ¡TENEMOS COMPAÑÍA!

¿QUÉ NÚMERO DE ZAPATO USAS? TENEMOS UN MONTÓN, PERO QUIERO ASEGU-RARME--

VENGA, VÁMONOS, NO SÉ CUÁNTAS DE ESAS COSAS HAY.

POR FAVOR. NO SE NOS ACERCARÁ NI UNA DE ESAS COSAS. NO CON ABRAHAM DE GUARDIA.

¡AAAAAHH!

¡OH, MIERDA!

NO-- ¡¡ALTO!!

TRANQUILÍZATE, ROSITA. NO PARECE QUE CORRAS NINGÚN PELIGRO.

MIRADLE--APENAS TIENE FUERZAS PARA LEVANTAR LA MANO Y AGARRARTE... HEMOS ESTADO DANDO VUELTAS POR ESTA CALLE Y NO SE HA LEVANTADO A ATACARNOS.

¿POR QUÉ? ¿POR QUÉ ESTÁ TAN *DÉBIL?*

HUUUNNNHH.

MIRADLE--FIJAOS CÓMO NI SE MUEVE. ESTOY AQUÍ MISMO--PERO APENAS PUEDE ABRIR LA BOCA PARA MORDERME.

ESTO ES *FASCINANTE.*

ES COMO SI SUPIERA QUE DEBERÍA HACERLO--*QUIERE* MORDERME--PERO ESTÁ DEMASIADO DÉBIL.

¿SERÁ POR LA FALTA DE COMIDA? ¿REALMENTE PODRÍAN ESTAR DIGIRIENDO LA CARNE DE ALGUNA FORMA? ESO PARECE IMPOSIBLE.

¿POR QUÉ ÉSTE ESTÁ ASÍ?

ES COMO SI ESTUVIERA DESNUTRIDO O ENFERMO--QUÉ RARO.

JODER--
¡EN MARCHA!
¡ESTA MIERDA SE ESTÁ PONIENDO PELIGROSA!

CREÍ QUE NUNCA LOGRARÍAMOS MOVER ESA CHATARRA.

EUGENE, ¿ESTÁS BIEN?

SIGO PENSANDO EN AQUEL ZOMBI DEL PUEBLO. NUNCA HABÍA VISTO NADA PARECIDO. TENGO QUE ASEGURARME DE QUE QUEDE DOCUMEN-TADO.

LOS HEMOS ESTADO LLAMANDO CAMINANTES Y MERODEADORES. LOS CAMINANTES SIEMPRE CAMINAN POR AHÍ... VIENEN A POR TI AL INSTANTE. LUEGO ESTÁN LOS OTROS, LOS MERODEADORES, QUE SE QUEDAN QUIETOS HASTA QUE ESTÁS CERCA DE ELLOS--PERO CUANDO LO HACES, ATACAN IGUAL QUE LOS OTROS.

NO COMO EL DE HOY.

FASCINANTE.

TÍOS, ¿PODÉIS VIGILAR A SOPHIA? VOY A VER CÓMO ESTÁ MAGGIE. HACE DEMASIADO TIEMPO QUE SE FUE.

¿QUIERES QUE VAYAMOS CONTIGO?

NO, YA SE ENFADARÁ BASTANTE CONMIGO POR ACERCARME A HURTADILLAS MIENTRAS HACE SUS COSAS. NO NECESITO LLEVAR MÁS PÚBLICO.

¿MAGGIE? ¿ESTÁS AHÍ?

SOY YO.

¡EH!

¡MAGGIE!

¿ESTÁS AHÍ?

¿MAGGIE?

WRITE TO US AT: **WALKINGDEAD@SKYBOUND.COM**

Greetings, Letter Hacks! Here we are at issue #55 and the start of a new story arc. We've got the incredible Francis Manapul tackling our next six connecting covers and he's starting things off moody and atmospheric with a haunting and electric color palette on this first cover--keep an eye out for these! A new arc also means we're answering new mail, and all this year we'll try to get to as many letters as we can for TWD's 20th anniversary.

In non-TWD news, we're having a bit of fun with INVINCIBLE this month too, which is also sharing its 20th anniversary. We'll have a special black and white "Undeluxe" edition of INVINCIBLE #1 in comic shops January 25. See what we did there? We're clever.

Also, (Kirkman here) if you're into that sort of thing, INVINCIBLE UNDELUXE #1 will have a cutting room floor entry showing the handwritten plot for the issue and me blabbering on about writing the first issue of that long running series. So maybe you'll want to pick that up.

Now let's dive into some NEW letters! Woo!

Hey! First time writing into Letter Hacks! I've been reading this comic since I was 10, 22 now. (23 by the time this releases) 12 Years! Just wanted to ask if you have any plans to do any more one-off issues? Thanks!

-Brock Martinez

Welcome to these hallowed halls, Brock. Thanks for writing in! For the record, I would love more one-off issues sometime in the future, but that's for Robert and Charlie to decide.

None planned at this point, unfortunately but I'd never say never.

Hello Walking Dead team. I got my letter printed once before in issue 19 and have been bragging about it to anyone who will listen ever since. Obviously I have to try to make the two timers club.

As I'm writing you I have just finished reading issue №42. Of course with the governor showing up again I can't wait for issue №43.

According to multiple letters columns criticizing Robert Kirkman is the best way to get your letter printed and for once I do actually have a complaint. I am a big fan of the TV show, but a first time TWD reader, as such I must say I was a bit disappointed seeing one of the cover for issue 41 which showed Carol being bitten. I know there are many fans reading the series again, but for me this came as a huge spoiler and ruined any surprise the ending of that issue had. TWD is obviously wildly successful and if these are the type of covers people want to see I can respect that, but as a first time reader I would like to ask if you can try and keep the spoiler covers to a minimum? Knowing so much from the show I enjoy being surprised when something happens in the comic that did not in the show.

Regardless of if you take this request into consideration or not I will of course continue reading as I love the series.

I do apologize for that. One cool aspect of this series is that people who may have never tried the TWD comics could now get in on the ground floor and enjoy it issue-to-issue. So, the fact that some of the covers are spoiling that experience is a bit of a bummer. We'll try to be more mindful of that in the future. It's just that the esteemed Mr. Finch is drawing the biggest moments from each issue and sometimes those moments are the end of the issue. We'll definitely try to keep a closer eye on that in the future.

I feel that it is customary to end the letters with a question so here is one that I have been pondering recently. TWD eventually transitioned from comic to TV series. Is there any chance we will see Fear the Walking Dead in a comic adaptation?

There is a not zero, but just barely, chance of that ever happening. It's extremely, extremely unlikely.

Austin Jewell from Michigan

P.S. I am one of the fans who actually does read the cutting room floor and I love it!

Well, the cutting room floor will DEFINITELY spoil the series moving forward a bit. I try to keep spoiler alerts in there, but tread carefully!

Good day, I know this series was originally in black & white, which I've never been a fan of. So I'm glad you brought it out in colour. I'm sure that a lot of people that bought in b/w are also buying the deluxe version, so they will know what to expect, so the covers won't worry them.

But an issue cover like №41 was a rather large spoiler! As good as the cover was it did somewhat spoil the story. The original cover gave nothing away. In saying this I very much enjoy the book, and hope to be seeing my 71st birthday, a few months before №193 is published. A strange reason for living, but a reason all the same!

Regards,
Terry E Brown.

A book about the dead is all the more reason to want to live, glad you're enjoying these, Terry. Thanks for writing in (and hope we made your year getting this letter in the column, sometimes it literally just comes down to timing).

Huh... these covers again.

Hello Walking Dead team! I'm enjoying the Deluxe reprints very much; I've noticed Dave McCaig's color job has added some great tension to a few scenes, so well done! I've also been a HUGE fan of many of the covers Art Adams has drawn, especially the one for issue 4 featuring Andrea. That one has a really nice Halloween-horror tone going on.

I'm sure you guys get all kinds of silly questions from readers, but I have one specifically for Mr. McCaig. In The Walking Dead №179, Michonne and Elodie go see a football game together. Well, the Commonweath is set in Ohio, and we Ohioans love our football, so I took a lot of joy from that little scene. Football in the post-apocalypse? Awesome! I wonder if you might consider making one of the football players' jerseys scarlet and gray in the Deluxe reprints, as a little nod to Ohio State football?

Sincerely,
Ethan

#179 is a long ways away, but if any of us remember for then, Ethan, I'll pass along the thought.

Hi hackers

Having just read issue 43 (well I've read it 4 times now but first time in colour) the first panel has to be the best art in the whole run.

That really is a great piece, from a strategic placed head, to a surprisingly small amount of blood which backs the Governor was left alive. Quick question, the sick on his chest is that the Governor's? Also full respect to Charlie as the panel is as good in black and white as it is in colour.

That's Michonne's vomit. She puked on him when she looked down at what she'd done to him.

Now the real reason I'm getting in contact, I was just collecting the TPBs at the time so I didn't have a chance to ask first time around. The scene in 43 where Gov kisses his daughter on the mouth. Does this imply something awful when Penny was alive? You said in the cutting room floor that you wanted to add something big. Is this implying that or is this along with the fish tank heads a way for him to desensitize to all the madness?

I wrote the kiss in the script. The intention was that he pulled the teeth out of his daughter's mouth so she couldn't bite him if he kissed her. It was meant to be innocent, if not extremely disturbing. When the art came back, Charlie drew it as an open-mouthed kiss... which is even more... disturbing. We erased a little bit of the Governor's tongue, to make it a little less overt, but the image was so disturbing and so insane... we had to leave it in.

Logistically... I don't think it's possible to have a closed-mouth kiss with a zombie. I mean, they'd be trying to bite you the whole time. So, it does make a certain amount of sense.

You also mentioned in 42s CRF that you just weren't sure anyone would read that section. Please be aware it's the reason I'm buying the series again. So interesting to see thought processes and your commentary on your own work is quite enlightening.

Mike Garner
Rotherham, UK.

Great to know, Mike! Thanks.

Hi team!

I'm not even sure if y'all are taking new letters anymore or how y'all put them out, but I just want to geek out a bit with yall!

We certainly are taking new letters, and thanks for geeking out!

With the series coming back in color, I've been so excited for the "Made to Suffer" arc to come through! In all honesty, it just feels so much darker in color. You follow me?

Also, seeing all these kick ass covers coming out from Finch and McCaig, to Todesco, and all these other ones, especially Platts connecting covers, I just cant handle how badass they all look!

No to mention the revamped original covers, it's fun to finally get the covers of the issues I don't have in my collection, so thank you for that! Well, see y'all next issue! 48 cant come fast enough!

Lots of love,
Andi Rose Tiscareño
El Paso, Texas

Awesome to hear, Andi! Great to hear from you and awesome to know that you're enjoying the series.

Hey there, folks -

First, thank you for allowing me to get in on the ground floor of such a monumental series. I was a Walking Dead comic virgin until the Deluxe rollout. Found out that the co-owner of my LCBS was as well.

(Hi, Warren, Jayden, and CaptCan Crew!)

I really don't care if this whole thing is a money grab. I'm going to enjoy every ish and hopefully bring a few trustworthy people along with me on the road to 193.

Take care!
Bruce Butgereit II
Hamilton, Ontario

Money grab? Eh... everything published is published for money, these are jobs after all. But money grab? I disagree with that. I've bought every color version of every black and white book I've enjoyed. As a fan, I love that stuff. Bone ***in color? Hell yeah.*** RASL? ***Equally awesome.*** From Hell? ***Yes please.*** Scott Pilgrim? ***Yes! Did those series do a full single issue run with multiple variant covers? No. They certainly did not. Did they have a run of 193 issues to get through? No. That is QUITE an uphill climb for a reprint series to accomplish. And as much as some people don't care for variants, there's a ton of people out there who love them. So, giving people what they want to ensure we get to reprint the full 193 issue run? I don't see a problem with that at all.***

Robert,

Issues 45-48 are some of the most riveting comics I have ever read. That ending in 48 always gets my heart pounding.

Axel was such a great character. Not only the sense of humor and the spots where they are placed but the fact that the prison was his home. He's the only one that really had a deep connection to the place. It's a relatable and simple concept to connect to. It's poetic that he died in the prison but man he was missed over the years.

Those novels with Jay were excellent. After reading them the character of Lily became another one sorely missed in the comics. She was a fantastic character.

Brandon Borzelli
Lebanon, NJ

Thanks, glad you dug it Brandon! And nice shout out for the novels I did with Jay Bonansinga. Check those out!

Dear Mr. Kirkman-

(It's embarrassing how long it took me to decide how to address this letter, lol)

Was "dear jackass" a contender?

A long, long time ago, I collected comic books in high school. Like most kids once I got to university I didn't have the time or money to continue. Then a couple years ago this crazy thing called a pandemic happened. I spent a lot of time going through my things and Marie Kondo-ing my life... when I found my comic book collection. I'm probably not the only person who turned to nostalgia at this time to feel better, but suffice to say I started visiting my local comic book store (when it was open anyway), and you decided to start publishing TWDD at the exact same time. Kismet.

Now, most of what I know about this series comes from AMC's The Walking Dead. And I can't lie, I didn't love it. A few amazing characters, like Glen and Michonne, kept me watching. But then Glen died and I gave up on the show. I have a friend (Meagan) who kept reassuring me the comics were waaay better, and filled me in on a lot of the differences from page to screen. All that to say that this run is giving me my long-awaited excuse to finally sit down and read the comics.

I wanted to write this letter earlier, because this year Meagan got married to the love of her life (Dan) and was hoping you could give them a little shoutout and well wishes. But I kept getting distracted and didn't manage to write this until after her wedding. Anyway, I wouldn't be here without her.

Huge congratulations to Meagan and Dan on your

wedding! Thanks for steering Guenevere to the comics! Much appreciated!

All right, enough about me, I would love to ask you some questions!

1) Obviously colouring the series is a huge endeavour, but I wondered why you didn't take the time to correct little mistakes in the art, like the name of the Wiltshire Estate?

Well, that one for sure is just a little thing that most people don't notice. In the case of Rick's regrown hands... well... that's just an error on our part.

2) I see that the series ends at ish 193. You were so agonizingly close to 200. Why did you stop early???

The collection breaks (every 6 issues) were more important than anniversary issues. The collection break was actually 192, so we did an extra and oversized issue to wrap things up. Also, 192 is a multiple of 6, 12, 24 and 48. So that's where the paperbacks, hardcovers, deluxe hardcovers, and most importantly, compendiums ended. So, 192 was the perfect ending point (which is why I prepared for it four years in advance), and 200 was not.

3) Going through the series again, do you feel inspired to start up TWD, picking up where you left off? Maybe focusing on a different set of characters?

I gave 16 years of my life to this world. I may dabble in it at some point in the future, but I doubt I'll ever return to do a full series. But... I'd never say never.

4) I love that you are reprinting the letter hacks, it's a really interesting time capsule. But I keep seeing mentions about extras in the comic, like the Christmas story in ish 35, and character bios, missing in this version. I don't miss the character bios, but I am dying to read that Christmas story. Do you think you might reprint it in a future ish?

All of that extra material will be colored and reprinted at some point in the future.

Thanks so much for printing this (presumptuous, ain't I?),

-Guenevere Lee

Hey! You were right!

Heyo! First letter I'm ever sending to a writer.

I have to say I am in love with the universe you have created. I'm so happy you decided to re release all these issues in color. Being born in 03 means I didn't get to collect them when they first came out. But I assure you, I'm collecting now!

Wow, you were born the same year this series was... that sure makes... me feel old. Also, being old makes me feel old.

Anyways, I'm currently catching up and reading through the letter hacks of issue 33. In it there is a specific letter that mentions a second book about a completely different set of people. At the time you said you didn't want to do it in fear of it possibly hurting the sales of TWD. I know we've kinda gotten a glimpse at what you could have meant with Fear The Walking Dead, but would you ever consider doing a second book now? About a completely different group? I think it would be a great idea and with the shows as popular as they are, I feel like a new book could bring in all the fans of those shows.

Ha! See previous letter response. Lots of people asking for a new series here. The closest we'll likely come to this is an entirely new series from me that's completely separate from TWD but has subject matter that would appeal to TWD fans. That's the best I could do at this point.

One more question. Where is our open world TWD game?! I would love to see a TWD game in the same vein as Fallout or Skyrim, where we can travel the world of TWD, whether it be locations we already know or a completely brand new story. Maybe we could learn more about the Delta from the fourth Telltale game! Either way an open world TWD game where we can build up our own community Fallout 4 style would be awesome!!

Anyways, I hope all keeps going well.

-Collin Pearson

I agree! An open world game would be great! But those are hard to do so who knows if one will ever happen. Fingers crossed!

Kirkman,

If I've timed this properly and I'm lucky enough to get this letter printed in Issue №55, readers will have recently been introduced to my favorite character in the entire Walking Dead universe, Eugene Porter. I don't quite know how to put into words how much I love Eugene. He is a character that stands out to me more than any other I've ever read about or seen. Character development over time has always been one of your greatest strengths as a writer and that has never been more evident

than with Eugene. I could go on and on about this but we both know that's not what you really want. You want numbered questions. Here we go!

Whew!

1) When you first came up with Eugene's character, did you already know how important he would be to the series? Or did his importance evolve over time?

Definitely not. I knew in the short term his story would get them to Washington but everything else unfolded over time.

2) Eugene's mullet has become iconic. If you had to go back and give him a different but equally ridiculous hairstyle, which one would it be and why?

I'd never change the mullet!

3) How do you feel about Josh McDermitt's portrayal of Eugene on the TV show?

Josh was just the greatest. He really spun Eugene into an icon. His portrayal of him was so unique and so memorable. I remember the casting process for Eugene and, to be clear, Josh was up against some heavy-hitters, and he was one of the actors who just obliterated the competition with what he brought to the table. It was stunning seeing Eugene come to life before our very eyes. But over the course of the show, he really evolved the character and expanded what the character could be in really interesting and compelling ways. Eugene owes so much to Josh's performance. I don't think he'd be half as memorable without him.

4) To the many, many people who are not fans of Eugene, what would you say to defend him?

I'd argue there aren't "many, many" people who qualify as such.

5) Do you have any Eugene facts or tidbits that never made it into the comics/show? If yes, please share.

I do not.

That's all for now. Thank you so much for creating this amazing world. And thank you for Eugene.

Becca Broda

Thanks for writing!

And that's all we have time for now. We'll be answering new mail again in #61 so get those letters in! And below, a few classic letters just to close us out.

-Amanda LaFranco

Thanks for writing in everyone! See you in another half-dozen issues!!

-Robert Kirkman

So... you guys have had it easy for a few issues... it's time to start killing characters again! Yay!

I'm pretty proud of this issue, it's pretty rare for me to get done with something and think, "Hey, this is okay." This is one of those times. Charlie, Cliff, and Rus all did a bang-up job. I hope you kids dig it as much as I do.

I feel compelled to mention that around the same time this issue ships you should be able to find a few Walking Dead related items in stores. The Walking Dead 2009 calendar is in stores. The Walking Dead Book Four is at the printer and The Walking Dead: The Covers hardcover, containing the first 50 covers with commentary and whatnot will be in stores soon... so that's a whole heck of a lot of TWD to be purchasing... snap to it!

Now, let's snap to some letters!

Dear, Mr. Kirkman

I just wanted to take the time to write to you and thank you for putting out TWD. You obviously work very hard on it, and it can't be easy to come up with something so imaginative every month. Well maybe not EVERY month, but considering everything else you put out (huh huh, put out), close enough. I do quite a bit of reading for someone who works 40+ and goes to school three nights a week. I've read every poem and short story by Edgar Allen Poe (who is my favorite writer), (what?! You like Poe more than ME?!) I've read almost everything by Shakespeare, some Hemingway, etc. I'm not saying this to sound like a pompous douche, though I'm sure I do. I just wanted you to know that, while I don't have a literary degree or anything, when it comes to good writing I know my stuff, and I would put your writing in the same class as Poe's any day. I read comic books as a kid, this is the first I've read as an adult and I've promptly bought every trade paperback (8 right?), and some regular issues. I haven't been so into a comic book since I was 12 reading Ghost Rider. I was just wondering, have you ever considered writing a book? One without pictures I mean. Not that Adlard and Rathburn don't do a fantastic job, I just think it would be an extremely valuable addition to the literary world, and I'm not just saying that because I have an affinity for anything Zombie based.

Again thank you so much, and thank you for taking the time to read this ass-kissing fest.

Sincerely,
Dan Noone

I would like to write a novel someday--and I have had offers from publishers to do so... but it takes different muscles to write prose and honestly, I'm a bit intimidated. I get to hide behind awesome artists with my work now--you see what I write through the filter of comic art--you don't actually see my work (except for in the balloons, I guess).

So... someday but not any time soon... I don't think.

Dear Mr. Kirkman!

I'm one of your few German readers and I apologize for my bad English skills, but there are just some things I want to tell you.

Whatever--we're HUGE in Germany!

I just read the whole TWD storyline up to issue 51 and I wanted to thank you. Not for ripping me my money, because the shipping costs of every fucking issue are eating me alive, but for your great storytelling. I didn't know any of your works, but then one day a friend showed me TWD and I had to read every issue in the last 2 weeks. I simply love your writing style, the characters, the setting and even the cliffhangers (hey, it's pretty dark inside your ass)...the early 20 issues weren't that great, but you proved you had a plan all the way!

Dark inside my ass? Because you're kissing it? Is that what you mean? You crazy Germans!

I didn't quite get why you received so much mails because of that black and white thing, I get the point of it, but as a German reader it's not a focus-thing when I read your stories, it's about life and death, trust, friendship love and not about race or am I wrong?

You're right--it's not about race.

Speaking of love, did you plan to kill Lori and Judi from the beginning? I know it doesn't matter that much now, but it was Rick's baby, right? Or will it be revealed during the phone calls with the dead Loh? I appreciate that the actual issues aren't that fast, gives me time to breathe, cause the past few issues nearly blew my brains out. Thanks again for this hell ride, it was worth every fucking minute, keep on writing that good stuff, you'll have one fan for sure!

Lori's death was planned for a good long time... but I don't remember how early. Maybe around the time of issue 10 or so... but I'm having trouble remembering right now.

Are you coming to Germany soon? I'd like you to sign some of my books...or you could just take a picture of yourself with an autograph, so everyone can download it from kirkmania.com

That wouldn't be the same!

By the way, is there a slight chance that there's a new BATTLE POPE coming? Just read the 14 issues and I nearly laughed the whole time, very funny stuff you came up with!

I would like to do new Battle Pope at some point. I had planned on doing it in 2008, but never got around to it. I'd like to eventually, though.

I'll finish reading Y: The Last Man and the next thing on my list is INVINCIBLE, promised!

Have you ever seen that Spanish zombie movie Una de Zombies? It's a good one... I think.

Never seen it.

So much for now...I never wrote to a comic magazine before especially not when it's overseas, but you are definitely worth writing to, so please print this letter!

Your fan since issue 1, Greets,

Matthias Olschewski
Germany

Consider this letter printed!

My Dearest Walking Dead Crew, Is it too much to say I love you?

Yes.

I read a lot of comic books (a lot of comic books) and this is the only one that is just breathtaking every single issue. EVERY SINGLE one. For 51 straight issues I have just been blown away.

I'll make this short, but I just want to say that unless Kirkman does something ridiculously stupid (which I don't see happening) I will NEVER drop this book. NEVER.

Keep it up guys! You're amazing!
-Brandt Williams

You have no idea what I have planned Brandt! Glad to hear I have your support regardless. I'll go light on the stupid from here on out.

Mr.Kirkman,

I read and enjoyed issue №50 as much as I've enjoyed the rest of your work, but it felt to me as if the dialogue was a bit off. So I'm pretty much wondering if the issue was somewhat rushed or if I should just read it again? Thanks for the great story either way.

Jake

That issue is mostly Carl talking and he's a little kid. Maybe that's the problem? I don't really know. I thought the issue worked well, dialogue-wise. As a kid, I purposefully make Carl's speech a little more labored and clunky.

Dear Mr. Kirkman,

First off, I just wanted to thank you and Charlie for creating such an amazing comic book. THE WALKING DEAD has helped change the general public's perception of what a comic book is. The moment after I read the first graphic novel , I recommended it to my friends who are not comic book fans. That copy quickly spread throughout my group of friends like the plague. Now, years later all of them head to local comic shops every week and come back with bundles of books. Once again, I must thank you for writing such engaging and creative masterpieces.

Now for a question– After years of writing this series, if you were given the chance to revise the comic, is there anything that you would change ie. particular moments or characters, etc.? From my point of view, the books are near-perfect as is. However, I am wondering if upon reflection, you would make any edits or changes to your work? Were you hampered by any deadlines or publishing restrictions? Thank for taking the time to read this letter. I look forward to reading the next issue of Walking Dead.

Sincerely,
Tim M. Molyneux

I don't know... if I wasn't hampered by time, I might write the book a little slower--but who's to say that wouldn't make the book WORSE? Looking back, MAYBE I wouldn't have cut Rick's hand off--and MAYBE I would have had Glenn get raped in Woodbury instead of Michonne... but I don't know... maybe not. The book is very successful, so I probably wouldn't change a thing.... just to be safe. Not because I think the book is perfect... it's just, if it ain't broke, don't fix it right?

Kirkman & Company,

Finally! Michonne makes her return to the story. I'm chomping at the bit to see more survivors from the prison massacre. Even more intriguing is the teaser image of next issue. Who are these people? Friend or foe? Or something else altogether?

Everytime you introduce new characters it's been a blast, and I expect this instance to be no different.

1. Will Rick and/or Michonne find new love in their desolate world?

Who knows...

2. Could they find solace in each other's arms?

They certainly seem to be forming a bond.

3. Do you plan on Rick, Michonne and Carl meeting up with survivors from the prison massacre? How soon?

Heh... issue #53, actually.

I do have ONE request: Please, stop making assurances that you will rectify the publishing frequency of TWD. You have yet to fulfill this promise. It's to the point of irritation.

Ask me about that in a few months.

I bought the Walking Dead HC volume 3 for my friend's birthday recently. A couple of days later she's asking for the 4th volume. Sheesh!

Make it so!
Sophea Uk

People are so damn needy!!

Okay, well, that does it for another issue of THE WALKING DEAD. Sorry again for the shorter letters column, but it's a necessity to getting the book out faster, so I hope you all understand.

Maybe... just maybe, I'll give you a longer one in an issue or so. We'll see.

-Robert Kirkman

NÚMERO 55

SALA DE MONTAJE

con Robert Kirkman

TWD (55)

(1) RICK CORRE DETRÁS DE CARL... PARA!! CASI LE ATROPELLA UN COCHE.

(2) LORI ESTÁ AHÍ! FLASHBACK...

(3) RICK HABLA "NO HE PODIDO PROTEGERLE..." LORI LE CONSUELA... LE ABRAZA... OH, CARIÑO... QUE NO HAYAS PODIDO PROTEGERNOS NO SIGNIFICA...

(4) LORI MUERDE A RICK... Y LE MATA...

(5) HACIÉNDOLE PEDAZOS.

(6) RICK SE DESPIERTA CON SUDORES FRÍOS. ABRAHAM HACIENDO GUARDIA. BLAM BLAM!

(7) RICK SUSTITUYE A ABRAHAM... SE TRAE LA MOCHILA.

(8) SACA EL TELÉFONO... SE LO PONE AL OÍDO HACE UNA PAUSA -- ¿ESTÁS AHÍ?

L: "POR SUPUESTO QUE SÍ."

(9) ¿QUÉ SIGNIFICA EL SUEÑO? "SIGNIFICA QUE CREES QUE ESTOY ENFADADA CONTIGO POR HABERME DEJADO MORIR."

(10) GLENN INTERRUMPE -- EH... ¿SE SUPONÍA QUE YO TENÍA QUE SUSTITUIR A ABRAHAM?

RICK: "NO PODÍA DORMIR - YO ME ENCARGO - VUELVE A LA CAMA."

(11) GLENN VUELVE A LA CAMA -- MAGGIE ESTÁ DESPIERTA -- "SOLO ABRÁZAME."

(12) MICHONNE SE DESPIERTA. GLENN VE A RICK -- LE DA LAS GRACIAS... "¿ESTABAS HABLANDO POR TELÉFONO?"

(13)(14) MÁS CHARLA CON LORI. "SE ESTÁ BIEN AQUÍ..." "SOY FELIZ..." "POR SUPUESTO... SABES QUE SOLO TE DICES A TI MISMO LO QUE QUIERES OÍR..." RICK: "LO SÉ."

(15) CARGAN LAS TIENDAS + COSAS -- SE MARCHAN.

(16) ¿MATANDO ZOMBIS? ¿BUSCANDO PROVISIONES?

(17) CONT. SALIENDO DE LA FERRETERÍA... MICHONNE PIEDRA DE AFILAR.

(18) ? ALGO CHULO.

(19)

(20) MAGGIE SE VA.

(21)

(22) ENCUENTRA A MAGGIE COLGADA DE UN ÁRBOL.

RICK	9
CARL	9
MAGGIE ✓	
GLENN	52
SOPHIA	52
ANDREA	
DALE	
GEMELOS	
MICHONNE ✓	
ABRAHAM ✓	
ROSITA ✓	
EUGENE ✓	

NACIMIENTO A LAS 7:00
MUERTE A LAS 9:00

ESPINOSA

56: SE APRENDE ALGO DE CADA PERSONAJE DE LA PORTADA.

57: RICK, CARL + ABRAHAM VAN A BUSCAR A MORGAN + DUANE

Originalmente estaba previsto que cada seis números, al principio de cada volumen recopilatorio, hubiera una escena de un flashback. En algún momento, se quedó en el tintero y decidí no hacerlo. La verdad es que no me apasionan los flashbacks. Creo que son una herramienta eficaz que los escritores mucho más hábiles que yo utilizan con muy buenos resultados. Pero, por alguna razón, no me gustan en mis obras. No sé por qué. Sencillamente prefiero centrarme en ir hacia delante.

Ed Brubaker solía enfadarse mucho con las escenas de hogueras del cómic. Se quejaba de que cuando los personajes relataban cosas de su pasado, yo hacía que Charlie dibujara al personaje hablando y contando la historia en lugar de MOSTRAR la historia que estaban contando. Sé que rompo la norma obvia de "mostrar y no contar", pero para mí, es más importante mostrar las emociones que sienten los personajes en el momento en que cuentan la historia que ver cómo se desarrolla la historia que están contando.

Estoy dispuesto a admitir que me equivoco. **ejem** 45 *millones de copias vendidas *ejem**

De todas formas, este número no empieza precisamente con un flashback, sino más bien con la secuencia de un sueño. Pero aun así evoca al plan original.

Vale... ese zombi debilucho que documenta Eugene... tío, era todo un misterio, ¿verdad? ¿A dónde iba eso? Um... ¿a ninguna parte? Para ser bochornosamente sincero, no recuerdo si alguna vez hubo un plan para que eso se convirtiera en una trama completa. Sé que en cierto momento mi intención era que Eugene estudiara a los zombis más a fondo, incluso que hiciera experimentos con ellos, pero luego me di cuenta de que lo estaba transformando en el Dr. Frankenstein de *El Día de los Muertos* de Romero.

Nunca he intentado ocultar lo mucho que me inspiraron las películas de Romero para esta serie. Siempre defenderé que no existiría WALKING DEAD sin el padrino del zombi moderno. Dicho eso, creo que esta serie aporta al menos una ligera innovación al género, del mismo modo que *Zombies Party* o *Guerra Mundial Z* aportaron cosas nuevas a lo que Romero había hecho hasta entonces.

Romero no ha dejado de hacer películas de zombis, y con *El Día de los Muertos, La Tierra de los Muertos Vivientes* y las que les siguieron, resultaba evidente que Romero quería explorar en profundidad la evolución de los zombis. Me pareció que evolucionar o alterar a nuestros zombis de algún modo habría supuesto desviarse demasiado de su consagrada obra. Así que hice mis pinitos, pero en general... lo evité.

Bien, ¿qué hay en la parte inferior de la trama? "Nacimiento a las 7:00, Muerte a las 9:00". Creo que era para alguna anécdota que un personaje iba a contar sobre cómo perdió un bebé. No consigo recordar si llegó a salir en el cómic o no.

Clavé el apellido de Rosita ahí abajo.

Y también clavé el tema que iba a tratarse en el №56. Más información al respecto en la entrada del próximo número.

Y, por último, averigüé lo que iba a pasar en el cómic №57. ¡Qué pasada!

NOTAS DE PÁGINA:

1-5: Más o menos según lo previsto hasta ahora. Nada ha variado ni se ha movido en esta escena.

6-7: Oh, no... ¿seguí esto al pie de la letra?

8-9: Uff. Bien... entonces para esta parte, terminé expandiéndola dos páginas. Quería que Lori le dijera más cosas a Rick, así que dejé que divagaran un poco más, y era el momento de que Rick empezara a arrepentirse de haber tomado ese camino, así que lo incluí.

13-14: Vale, aquí se puede ver que SÍ planeé estas dos páginas extra de Lori antes de escribir el guion. Solo que las añadí más tarde a la trama.

15: Está claro que decidí añadir más dramatismo y acrecentar un poco la tensión entre Rick y Abraham.

16: ¡Eh, idiota! No olvides que es un cómic de zombis. (Más adelante olvidaría por completo que es un cómic de zombis).

18: Ah, la clásica entrada de "Algo chulo" de la trama. Supongo que por eso se me ocurrió lo del "zombi desnutrido" sobre la marcha. Quizás... solo quizás, ¿tendría que haber dedicado más tiempo a esta trama? ¿Solo quizás? O en verdad... dado que esta trama se parecía tanto al número final... ¿quizás debería habérmelo pensado un poco más? Eh.

20-21: Y tío, qué final más deprimente para este número. ¿Ha existido una familia en la ficción con una historia más trágica que la de los Greene? Visto en perspectiva, parece que se la tenía jurada a esa buena gente. Veréis... los habíamos reducido sistemáticamente a un último miembro de la familia, ¿y la pobre Maggie se ve abocada a esto? Joder.

PORTADA

BILL SIENKIEWICZ

"Esto nos pone a todos en peligro.
Todos sabemos lo que se tiene que hacer."

DAVID FINCH

CHARLIE ADLARD

FRANCIS MANAPUL

NÚMERO 56

¡DISPONIBLE 1 DE FEBRERO, 2023!

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La *PRESENTACIÓN DELUXE* de la épica del horror de supervivencia, contada nuevamente a todo color... comienza aquí.

PORTADA ORIGINAL DEL NÚMERO 55 DE
CHARLIE ADLARD* & *CLIFF RATHBURN

RATED **M** / MATURE

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